

APPENDIX G

MINERAL POTENTIAL RATING GUIDELINES

Table 4.1 in Chapter 4 attempts to qualify the level of geologic potential for each of the various mineral resources in the Pocatello Resource Area. The rating guideline used on Maps 9 - 12, is based on energy and mineral resource assessment criteria found in BLM Manual 3031. Resource information on hydro-carbon potential was directly obtained from oil and gas companies utilizing Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, Inc. and BLM format. Phosphate mineral potential is based on existing BLM classification data. Locatable minerals were evaluated using all available sources of geology, geophysical, and mineral potential information. Mineral materials were evaluated and rated as either high or low potential based on geologic data and existing development.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Classification Scheme

No	The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes do not indicate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
Low	The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate low potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
Moderate	The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the reported mineral occurrences indicate moderate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
High	The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences, and the known mines or deposits indicate high potential for accumulation of mineral resources.

Level of Confidence Scheme

A.	The available data are either insufficient and/or cannot be considered as direct evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources within the respective area.
B.	The available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.
C.	The available data provide direct evidence, but is quantitatively minimal to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.
D.	The available data provide abundant direct and indirect evidence in support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.

Mineral Development Potential

Development potential has been shown for some minerals using the criteria outlined in BLM Manual 3031.

OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive Species

The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species, listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the surface management agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at their discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the surface management agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the surface management agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

Erosion Control

Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil period. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

Controlled or Limited Surface Use Stipulation

A copy of the Standard Stipulations are located at the end of this Appendix. The standard stipulations may be modified by special stipulations or when specifically approved in writing by the District Manager of the BLM, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual on-ground conditions.

When necessary, the lessee/operator is given notice that the lands within their lease include special areas, and that such areas contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas would be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Buffer zones for special areas include and restrictions apply to:

1. 100 feet from the edge of the rights-of-way of highways, designated county roads, and appropriate federally-owned or controlled roads and recreation trails.

2. 500 feet within the 100-year flood plain of reservoirs; lakes; ponds; intermittent, ephemeral or perennial streams; rivers; and domestic water supplies.
3. 500 feet from grouse strutting grounds. Special care to avoid nesting areas associated with strutting grounds will be necessary during the period from March 1 to June 30. One-fourth mile from identified essential habitat of state and federal sensitive species. Crucial wildlife winter ranges during the period from November 15 to April 30.
4. 300 feet from occupied buildings, developed recreational areas, undeveloped recreational areas receiving concentrated public use, and sites eligible for or designated as National Register sites.

When necessary, special stipulations would also apply for:

1. Seasonal road closures, roads for special uses, specified roads during heavy traffic periods, and on areas having restrictive ORV designations.
2. Slopes over 30 percent, or 20 percent on extremely erodible or slumping soils.
3. Federally owned or controlled springs, reservoirs, wells, or other water sources.

STANDARD STIPULATIONS
FOR OIL AND GAS AND GEOTHERMAL LEASES

1. All of the land in this lease is included in (recreation or special area, etc). Therefore, no occupancy or disturbance of the surface of the land described in this lease is authorized. The lessee, however, may exploit the oil and gas resources in this lease by directional drilling from sites outside this lease. If a proposed drilling site lies on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, a permit for use of the site must be obtained from the BLM District Manager before drilling or other development begins.
2. No access or work trail or road, earth cut or fill, structure or other improvement, other than an active drilling rig, will be permitted if it can be viewed from the (road lake, river, etc).
3. No occupancy or other activity on the surface of (legal subdivision) is allowed under this lease.
4. No occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within _____ feet of the (road, trail, river, creek, canal, etc). This distance may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.
5. No drilling or storage facilities will be allowed within _____ feet of (live water, the reservoir, etc.), located in (legal subdivision). This distance may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.
6. No occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed on slopes in excess of _____ percent, without written permission from the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.
7. In order to (minimize watershed damage, protect important seasonal wildlife habitat, etc.), exploration, drilling, and other development activity will be allowed only during the period from _____ to _____. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically authorized in writing by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.
8. In order to minimize watershed damage during muddy and/or wet periods, the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, may prohibit exploration, drilling or other development. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells.
9. The (trail, road) will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease.
10. To maintain esthetic values, all semi-permanent and permanent facilities may require painting or camouflage to blend with the natural surroundings. The paint selection or method of camouflage will be subject to approval by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.